

The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) of 2003

U.S. waters face increasing threats from aquatic invasive species. The National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) will prevent these harmful invasive species from damaging the United States' aquatic ecosystems and natural resources by:

- **Reducing invasive species introductions from ships by:**
 - Establishing a national mandatory ballast water management program
 - Requiring ships to have an Invasive Species Management Plan that outlines ways to minimize transfers on a “whole ship” basis
 - Creating a ballast water treatment technology certification program
 - Including incentives for ship owners to install experimental ballast treatment technology
- **Preventing invasive species introductions from other pathways by:**
 - Identifying and managing pathways that pose the highest risk of introducing invasive species
 - Creating a screening process for planned importations of live aquatic organisms
- Supporting development and implementation of **State Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans**, including early detection, screening and rapid response activities at state and regional levels
- **Conducting ecological surveys** for early detection of invasive species and analysis of invasion rates and patterns
- Making available federal funding and resources for **rapid response** to introductions of invasive species
- Preventing interbasin transfer of organisms by increasing funding and resources for **dispersal barrier** projects and research
- Establishing **environmental soundness criteria** to ensure all prevention and control measures enacted do not further harm the environment
- Creating **education and outreach** programs to inform the public on preventing transfers of invasive species by proper cleaning of recreational boats, and proper disposal of non-native organisms for home aquaria.
- Conducting **research** on high-risk invasion pathways and alternative prevention and control technologies
- Making available **\$170 million** in federal funds for aquatic invasive species prevention, control, and research.